NEW JERSEY MAFIA

Background and Highlights

Until the mid-1800s, the southern portion of Italy, along with Sicily, was controlled by foreign governments – NAPOLEON BONAPARTE and the BOURBON Kings of France, the HAPSBURGS of Spain and Austria - each in turn saw fit to plunder the resources of this once advanced and cultured area. Naples exhibited the earliest signs of the Renaissance and it flourished there while other places would wait for decades to catch up. The first railroad was Neapolitan; the palace at Caserta was modeled after Versailles and rivals it in splendor. The plundering of the south's resources with no investment in the substructure led to the destruction of the very resources desired. Because of the neglect afforded Sicily and Caserta by the authorities in Paris, Madrid, Vienna, Rome and elsewhere, the population often had to resort to ingenious methods to get things done. Without the help of "friends" a town would not have a school, a hospital, even roads. Out of necessity was born the underground quasi-government that managed to secure the means for development for almost every thing – sewage systems, roads, hospitals – along with other businesses, such as "protection" from government investigations..... all for a fee.

On Sicily, the Onorato Societá or "Honored Society" developed to meet the needs of the populace. The Societá was a loose alliance, or consorteria, of clans or families, called cosche. The alliance was called the Amico degli Amici meaning "Friend of Ours." The head of the family was the capo. The term Mafia was also used but its' origins are uncertain. An 1868 dictionary defines it as a neologism denoting bravado, while another, just eight years later, says it is the equivalent of a gang. One possibility comes from an alleged occurrence during what has become to be known as the Night of the Sicilian Vespers. In 1282 a mother witnessed the rape of her daughter in a church by a French soldier. Her cry "Ma fia! Ma fia!" (My daughter! My daughter!) signaled the beginning of a massacre that cleared Sicily of the ruling, and thoroughly despised, French. On the mainland, several similar organizations formed in different areas. The best-known is the *Camòrra* of Naples and Caserta. Members of both these groups emigrated to the U.S. and set about duplicating the system they knew. Others were the N'drangheta in Calabria, Basilischi in Lucania and the Sacro Corona Unita in Puglia. The first years of the 20th century saw the start of the fight for control of the lucrative enterprises of the American off shoots of both the Camòrra and the Mafia. The "first" mob informant, ANTONIO NOTARO from Springfield, Massachusetts, turned states evidence in May and June 1916. Most of the evolving American families were still associated with either the Neapolitan-based Camòrra or the Sicilian-based Mafia, though the latter would take precedence. The bloodiest battles of the mob wars would not be Camòrra against Mafia but Mafia against Mafia. The capos of two separate Mafia cosche wanted a piece of the New World racquets. Italians and Sicilians are fiercely protective of their own village or town; outsiders are not to be trusted. This was born from the decimation caused by centuries of foreign rulers and corrupt practices originating inside the Vatican walls. The Italians even have a word for this attitude: Campanilisti – a campanile is the bell-tower of a church and everything out of hearing range from the church bell was suspect. The warring *Mafia* factions pitted the Palermo cosche against the Castellamarese one.

GIUSEPPE "JOE THE BOSS" MASSERIA, a member of the Palermo *Onorato Societá* in Sicily, fled to New York in 1903. Once established in Brooklyn he quickly begins illegal business activities with bootlegging liquor being the mainstay and soon moves into

Manhattan where he takes over the Morello family. The *mano negro*, or "black hand," a simple handprint in black on a piece of paper was a symbol of power and intimidation; anyone receiving it would have to take steps to preserve their businesses – pay for "protection" or seek protection elsewhere.

DON VITO CASCIO FERRO, "boss of all bosses" in the *Onorato Societá*, sent SALVATORE MARANZANO to America to organize and bring under his control, the activities of the American *Mafia*. MARANZANO came from the small coastal town of Castellammarese del Golfo, west of Palermo. There were hundreds of immigrants in New York, and throughout the country, from Castellammarese that immediately recognized MARANZANO as their leader. Described as an "extremely clannish bunch," they had little respect for the MASSERIA counterparts from Palermo.

The business of boot-legging mushroomed with the advent of Prohibition. This business boom dove-tailed with the exodus of many prominent figures in both the *Camòrra* and the *Mafia* in the 1920s due to BENITO MUSSOLINI'S aggressive law enforcement tactics. Meanwhile, in Manhattan's Lower East Side, another gang formed around the same venture. Headed by SALVATORE LUCANIA, later known as LUCKY LUCIANO, the major players were MAIER SUCHOWLIJANSKI (MEYER LANSKY), BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL, FRANCESCO CASTIGLIA (FRANK COSTELLO) and VITO GENOVESE. The last two hailed from the Naples area and were affiliated with the Neopolitan *Camòrra*.

As in any market economy, these enterprises were governed by the laws of "supply and demand." As demand always exceeded supply, the rival gangs would hijack competitor's trucks and use strong-arm tactics to force speakeasies to use only their liquor. By 1928, MARANZANO had caused enough tension to warrant JOE THE BOSS demanding tribute from the Castellammarese. Refusing to pay, one of their clan was murdered in NY, followed by more around the country.

Possibly to ward off the looming war, JOSEPH PORELLO and SAM TODARO, capo and suttocapo in Cleveland respectively, hosted the first known nation-wide Mafia meeting at the Statler Hotel in Cleveland on December 5, 1928. Not much was achieved as the hotel was raided by the local police who arrested several people.

MARANZANO stepped up his encroachments on MASSERIA'S bootlegging operations. JOE THE BOSS, pushed to the breaking point, passed a death sentence on the entire Castellammarese clan. The ensuing Castellammarese War lasted until 1931 when LUCKY LUCIANO set up MASSERIA for MARANZANO. LUCIANO'S Lower East Side gang had sided early on with JOE THE BOSS, but, in the end, defected to the Castellammarese. On April 15th of that year, LUCIANO and MASSERIA dined at the Nuova Villa Tammaro restaurant on Coney Island. LUCIANO excused himself and, upon returning, found MASSERIA shot dead. Blame has fallen on different people but several of the accused worked for VINCENT MANGANO'S crew on Brooklyn's waterfront.

In May 1931, MARANZANO convened a meeting of all the families. Some sources give the location as the Bronx while others give Chicago. At this meeting he dictated the new order for *La Cosa Nostra*. It would be divided into 24 well-defined families, each with a jurisdiction over a specific territory and/or business. MARANZANO was the self-appointed càpo di tùtti i càpi, the supreme boss of all the bosses. New York was divided among six families. Three based in Brooklyn: the MARANZANO family, headed by JOE BONANNO which would later bear his name; JOE PROFACI was capo of the VILLABATE family with JOE COLOMBO as underboss, eventually named after the latter when he became boss after PROFACI died on 6 June 1962; and the third headed by VINCENT MANGANO, organizer of the Brooklyn waterfront. MANGANO'S step up from crew leader to head of a family drew ALBERT THE "MAD HATTER" ANASTASIA, JOE ADONIS and

CARLO GAMBINO into his family that would become the GAMBINO FAMILY. The fourth family was carved out of the old MASSERIA gang, led by LUCKY LUCIANO and included FRANK COSTELLO and VITO GENOVESE who would later assume leadership and give to the family his name. The old REINA family of Manhattan was controlled by GAETANO GAGLIANO. They specialized in garment district rackets. Tommy "Three Finger Brown" Lucchese would become its boss and give it a new name. The MINEO family, involved in the Brooklyn waterfront with VINCENT MANGANO, was given to FRANK SCALISE to run.

SIX mob families in New York?! What gives? The architect of the design, SALVATORE MARANZANO, was càpo di tùtti i càpi for just 6 months before he was assassinated. SCALISE was out as boss and control fell to that other Brooklyn waterfront force, VINCENT MANGANO. VINCENT 'S eventually fell to CARLO GAMBINO who took over leadership of the VINCENT MANGANO family. CARLO GAMBINO, VITO GENOVESE and TOMMY LUCCHESE were in very similar predicaments within their respective families as 1955 rolled around. Each felt they had earned the right to ascend to the position of family head when that position opened up. Likewise, each knew there was no guarantee LCN would agree. Together the three underbosses hatched a plan to insure their success when the time was right. The time was right in 1957 and with the murder of ALBERT ANASTASIA in October, CARLO GAMBINO stepped up to run the VINCENT MANGANO family. It isn't clear if ANASTASIA'S assassination was part of their plan, the catalyst which put their plan in to action or a completely unrelated, yet fortuitous, occurrence. Their plotting paid off handsomely – the MANGANO family was renamed the GAMBINO family, the LUCIANO became the GENOVESE family and the GAGLIANO became the LUCCHESE family.

GAMBINO, GENOVESE and LUCCHESE fought an on-and-off war with JOSEPH BONNANO, the head of the BONNANO crime family. BONNANO steadily lost ground as he lost allies: ALBERT ANASTASIA was murdered in 1957 and JOE PROFACI died in 1962. Men whose allegiance lay with GAMBINO replaced each. By 1967, when VITO GENOVESE died, GAMBINO was left as a near boss-of-bosses. GAMBINO is known for running one of the most profitable crime families in history and for never having gone to jail. He remained in control of his family, with help from PAUL CASTELLANO, until his death in 1976.

As mentioned earlier, the families retained the early affiliations: the MASSERIA and the Chicago families looked to the *Camòrra*, while the MINEO, MARANZANO and the Buffalo families favored the *Mafia*. This structure has continued to function to this day, but the hierarchy was short-lived.

LCN was supervised the 11-member Commissione made up of the heads of the 5 New York families, as well as Philadelphia, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and New Orleans. By the fall of 1931 LUCIANO would become the defacto boss of all bosses after he ordered a hit on MARANZANO who was murdered along with sixty loyalists; probably including SAM MONACO of the Jersey family who was found floating in Newark Bay in September of that year. The superstructure of the Cosa Nostra remained intact, while Irish and Jewish mobs were included as nonmember associates. The Commissione arbitrated disputes, set policy, and negotiated with non-Italian gangs. Every family has a boss appointed by the Commissione, and an underboss or suttocapo, several captains, caporegimas, sometimes called lieutenants that comprise the decima.

Beyond supplying liquor during Prohibition, and cheap liquor afterwards, *La Cosa Nostra* was also involved in running numbers, controlling the Brooklyn waterfront, thus over 80% of all U.S. imports and exports, and later, drug trafficking which would come to an "official" end in 1958 to avoid federal investigations.

The early 1930s brought organized crime to Cuba. MEYER LANSKY walked away from Havana with the gambling rights to the island after paying Dictator FULGENCIO BATISTA \$3 million up front and guaranteeing him the same amount yearly.

During World War II, the U.S. Navy negotiated with *La Cosa Nostra* to guarantee the security of New York harbor, the site of the burning of the *USS Lafayette* troop ship supposedly by the mob on 9 February 1942. The ship is better known by its before-conversion name given by the owners for its 1932 launch: *SS Normandie*. To this day, this luxury liner remains the most powerful steam turbo-electric propelled passenger ship ever built. In negotiations, the leaders of the *Onorato Societá* in Sicily would offer a safe landing for Allied troops there; and Lucky Luciano, in prison since 1936 for operating a prostitution ring, was released from prison in 1946, exiled to Italy.

In October 1946 Havana was the site for a huge convention of syndicate bosses. Because of Lansky's alliance from over a decade earlier, and despite the fact that Batista had been forced to step down in 1944, this was a safe haven. Batista still ran the island, from Miami. (He would return in 1952 and last till his overthrow by FIDEL CASTRO on 1 January 1959) Attendees included Luciano, Genovese, Bonanno, Joe Profaci, Joe Adonis, Frank Costello, Tommy Lucchese, Albert Anastasia, Meyer Lansky, and Frank Sinatra accompanying the Fischetti brothers. During the 1970s the US government collaborated with *LCN* bosses to attempt the assassination of FIDEL CASTRO.

Philadelphia

In Philadelphia, the old SABELLA family came under the control of JOSEPH BRUNO. The Buffalo, NY family was headed by ANGELO PALMIERI and JOSEPH DECARLOBEFORE coming under the control of STEFANO MAGGADINO. FRANK MILANO ran the Cleveland family, while AL CAPONE headed up Chicago's.

The Philadelphia family was run by SALVATORE SABELLA from 1911 until his death in 1927. SABELLA'S influence in Southern NJ was so great that he is sometimes thought to be the head of the NJ family. He was succeeded by JOSEPH BRUNO who ruled until 1946, with a brief interruption in 1934-35, when the family was ruled by JOHN AVENA. After BRUNO'S death in 1946, JOSEPH IDA took over until he fled to Sicily to avoid a narcotics conviction in 1959. The waning Philly presence in the south is illustrated by the fact that SABELLA'S successor in Philly JOSEPH BRUNO is NOT referred to as head of the NJ family. Instead it appears that STEFAN BADAMI assumed much of the control formerly handled by the Philly *LCN*.

New Jersey

In addition to the influence of the New York City and Philadelphia families, there is a strictly New Jersey family, originally operating out of Newark. It was operating as early as 1910 and it is with this family that came to be known as the DECAVALCANTE family, that we are concerned with.



The Trenton area appears to have been more New Jersey groups, probably because of the

closely attached to the northern proximity of the early bosses in

Newark and Elizabeth to New York. In fact, Newark is/was under the direct influence of the Lucchese family. New Jersey has had its own loosely structured family for the past century. Elizabeth was its early base and the family was headed by, in succession, GASPARE D'AMICO from 1910 followed by STEFANO BADAMI with SAM MONACO as underboss until 1931. Just when D'Amico SAM MONACO "disappeared" on 10 September 1931 and his body floated ashore 3 days later in Newark Bay. Perhaps he was one of the sixty "loyalists" of SALVATORE MARANZANO eliminated by LUCKY LUCIANO. FILIPPO AMARI until his death or deportation in 1957, Nick DELMORE until 1961 or '64, turned family over to his nephew SIMONE RIZZO DECAVALCANTE (1919 -), known as SAM THE PLUMBER, with FRANK MAJURI as underboss, until his incarceration in 1969, JOHN RIGGI, possibly in concert with the jailed DECAVALCANTE, who was himself jailed in 1990, JOHN D'AMATO or D'AMICO who was "acting" boss while RIGGI was incarcerated, until his murder in November 1991, alleged at the hands of the 'acting' boss VINCENT "VINNY OCEAN" PALERMO who then became boss and was such as late as 1999. The NJ crime family had less than 60 members in the 1960s, one of whom may have been ALBERT MATELENA. It is unknown to this author if ALBERT was ever formally "made," that is to say, inducted into La Cosa Nostra.



STEFANO BADAMI lost out in the Castellamarese Wars. His underboss, though alive, was replaced by FILIPPO AMARI (PHIL AMARI) shortly thereafter. It is said that, when desirous of replacing a boss, remove their underlings first, thus eliminating any semblance of leadership. On 31 March 1955, BADAMI was stabbed to death in a restaurant. Police questioned MONACO'S brother, the theory being avenging SAM'S murder, and released. This would indicate that MONACO was murdered at BADAMI'S orders. AMARI was heavy into drug trafficking and was well known to the Federal authorities. He was also involved in labor racketeering, gambling and loansharking and one of his key associates was the father of future Boss, JOHN RIGGI. His reign was not a pleasant one and the Commission was probably pleased when they replaced him with NICK DELMORE in 1957. NICK became a family member in late 1943 or early 1944. What happened to AMARI is disputed: one source states he was deported to Italy on 19 May, while others say he died.

What happened to DELMORE? Some say he "stepped down" in 1961. Others say he ruled until his death in 1964. In any event, he was appointed to head the family and placed on a year's probation by the Commission in an effort to avoid the family feuds that plagued AMARI'S reign. FRANK MAJURI, one of DELMORE'S family members was present at the *Appalachin conference* on 14 November 1957. "COUNT" MATELENA is known to have accompanied an as-yet-unnamed member of the New Jersey family to this conference. The western New York meeting was to deal with problems within *La Cosa Nostra* and was attended by high-ranking members from all over the country. Held on the hilltop estate of JOSEPH BARBARA, a *caporegime* in the Buffalo family, the NY State Police discovered the meeting and ended up detaining fifty-eight conferees. Twenty-seven would be indicted for obstruction of justice and twenty of these would be convicted for refusing to tell authorities what the meeting was about.

SAM THE PLUMBER operated a plumbing and heating firm in Kenilworth, NJ with his business partner LARRY WOLFSON. He lived near Princeton, NJ. DECAVALCANTE held a series of meetings to establish the extent of their territory and apparently ended the Newark-Elizabeth feud. He received the Elizabeth crew from Uncle Nick and replaced the LUCCHESE in Newark with his crew. Less negotiating was required for SAM to claim Trenton and Princeton for his crews.

SAM was propelled into the spotlight by the FBI. SAM'S offices were bugged from 1961 to 1965 and the DECAVALCANTE tapes document much of the structure and leadership of *LCN*. JOE SFERRA was one of SAM'S lieutenants and his underboss was FRANK MAJURI. SAM may have used the Burg Dairy in the Chambersburg section of Trenton as a meeting place.

The Elizabeth, New Jersey family was headed by STEFANO BADAMI and FILIPPO "PHIL" AMARI, for several years. Around 1955 BADAMI and AMARI were murdered. The rivalry between the Newark and Elizabeth factions caused problems and in the reorganization, it was decided that the Elizabeth faction was to form its own family headed by NICHOLAS "NICK" DELMORE the family would later be known as the DECAVALCANTE crime family, and the Newark-based Jersey Crew was to stay as a faction of the Lucchese crime family.

http://www.lacndb.com/php/Info.php?name=Family%20-%20Decavalcante One of the first things done by and used a plumber store as his front.

Leadership throughout history

DeCavalcante - Early 1910's

Period	Boss	Acting boss	Underboss	Year of Change	Reason
1910-1937	Gaspare D'Amico	none	(<u>Stefano</u> <u>Badami</u>)	1937	D'Amico retired
1937-1955	<u>Stefano</u> <u>Badami</u>	none	(Phil Amari)	1955	Badami murdered due to powerstruggles
1955-1957	Phil Amari	none	Frank Majuri	1957	Amari and Majuri stepped down
1957-1964	Nicholas Delmore	none	Louis Larasso	1964	Nicholas Delmore retired
1964-1980	Samuel DeCavalcante	John Riggi	Louis Larasso	1975	DeCavalcante jailed, Riggi became the acting boss
-	-	John Riggi	Louis Larasso	1976	Louis Larosse demoted
1980-1990	John Riggi	none	Vincent Rotondo	1988	Vincent Rotondo murdered
1990-1992	John	Jake Amari	Girolamo	1991	John Riggi jailed, John D'Amato became acting boss

	D'Amato		Palermo		
1992-2008	John Riggi	Jake Amari	-	1992	John D'Amato murdered, Jake Amari steps down due to illness, a ruling panel is appointed
-	-	Vincent Palermo, Jimmy Palermo, Charles Majuri	-	1999	Panel members arrested
-	-	Francesco Guaracci	-	2008	Guaracci succeeds Panel
2008-present	Francesco Guaracci	none	Joseph Miranda	-	Guaracci regarded as official boss

In 1969, SAM went to trial on extortion charges in federal court in Newark, NJ. The prosecution filed 13 volumes of transcripts and SAM'S defense attorney moved that the transcripts be made available to the defense, which was granted on 10 June of that year. Unfortunately for SAM and *LCN* in general, his attorney did not request the material be sealed and they became public record. Now comprised of 14 volumes, they are available at the New Jersey State Library. Sam was convicted on an extortion-conspiracy charge and sentenced to 15 years in the federal prison in Atlanta, GA. After serving his time, he retired to Florida.

Just how long Albert was associated with SAM THE Plumber, or his predecessors, is not yet known, but it is probably safe to assume that some sort of relationship with the New Jersey LCN had been established by the late 1920s or early 1930s. As with any organization, one does not usually become involved only when appointed leader, but rather is involved for years earlier. Sam was involved since the 1930s. His father was a LCN member as well and when JOSEPH BRUNO of the Philadelphia family wanted to "make" Sam in the 30s, his Dad objected, stating that when his son was to be "made," he would do it himself. He was, in all likelihood, one of AMARI'S captains and may have been the one in "charge" of the Trenton area. It does seem that by the 1960s, he didn't have much contact with Sam as the transcripts of the DECAVALCANTE Tapes of 1961-65 do not have a single conversation between the two mentioned.

Gambling was one of the major sources of income for organized crime. It wasn't an interstate crime, a federal offense, until the passage of the Interstate Transportation of Wagering Information Act in the late 1950s. The income was steady and the risk of a police raid was kept low through pay-offs, tip-offs and timing.

Betting on the horses became a staple of the COUNT. Horse racing had gone the way of alcohol and, for the most part, was prohibited during the same time period. Going hand-in-hand, both alcohol and horse-racing became entwined with *LCN*. When the COUNT was arrested and tried in 1937-38, one of the charges included having the "call" of horse races relayed over telephone lines from

Hollywood. In California the only track existing at the repeal of prohibition was the Santa Anita track which was built by "LUCKY" BALDWIN in 1907. Public tracks were outlawed two years later. A 1933 ballot initiative legalized horse racing and the Santa Anita track was purchased by the Los Angeles Turf Club who rebuilt it for its' reopening in 1934. This was the only track open until 1937 and, therefore, must have been the racetrack whose results were sent over telephone lines to the COUNT'S gambling halls. 1937 saw the opening of the Del Mar Racetrack, followed by Hollywood Park the next year. Bookmaking was relatively secure in that a person could only gain entrance by referral. It was sometimes difficult to get an informant on the inside.

One way in which the bookie made money was through the placement of the bet. A person would wager \$11.00 for the possibility of winning \$10.00 plus the bet, close to doubling his money. The betting amount was figured as the amount wagered, X, plus 10% to win X. In this scenario: \$10.00 + \$1.00 to win \$10.00 (plus the bet of \$11.00). The 10%, called the vig, went to the bookie.

The Count has also been characterized as the "bookie's bookie" a phrase used to describe a bookmaker that will "accept" the bets of another bookie. This was necessary when the bet was lopsided, such as when a home team played. The amount of bets was too large for a single bookmaker and he would rely on the "lay-off bookmaker" to balance the bet and keep the games running. Lay-off bookmakers had an intricate country-wide network that allowed for large numbers of bets to be placed all over the country and this kept everyone happy and raking in the money. Well, everyone except the bettor.

The numbers rackets was another favorite income producing venture of the Count's. It was, elementally, a lottery, not unlike the state-run lotteries of today. A set of numbers that had yet to be revealed was chosen, such as the scores of the first 3 games of the World Series. A person would place a bet of 25¢ to \$1.00 that he could pick 3 of the 6 game scores. Of course, as in all betting, the house had the favor; for that is the allure of betting – the beating of the odds. The house would then turn a percentage over to LCN who would see to it that the establishment was allowed to operate, undisturbed by the authorities.

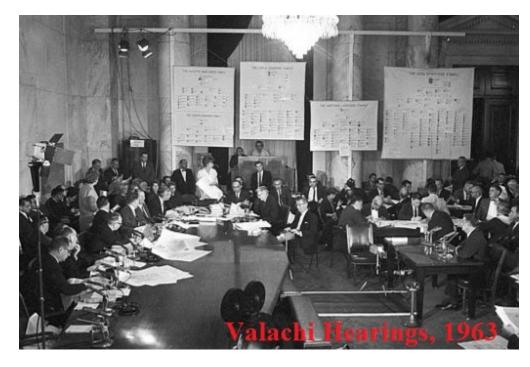
As LCN became more organized, the need for control over the transmission of the horse track results became apparent. It started out in a haphazard fashion, but slowly evolved into a system named the "Firm." The Firm held the only connections to the various race tracks after having "persuaded" others to turn to other, less risky ventures. The Firm was protected from competition by paying LCN for that protection. In turn, LCN allowed the Firm to supply necessary telephone connections to the gambling establishments that were approved by LCN. The operator of the gambling establishment ended up paying both LCN and the Firm for protection and connection, respectively.

PHILADELPHIA

1911 – 1927 SALVATORE SABELLA
 1927 – 1934 JOSEPH BRUNO
 1934 – 1935 JOHN AVENA
 1935 – 1946 JOSEPH BRUNO
 1946 – 1959 JOSEPH IDA

New Jersey

??? – 1931	Stefano Badami
1931 - 1957	FILIPPO AMARI
1957 - 1961	NICK DELMORE
1961 – 1969	SIMONE RIZZO DECAVALCANTE
1969 - 1990	JOHN RIGGI
1990 - 1992	JOHN D'AMATO – murdered by underboss GIROLAMO PALERMO after being told by D'AMATO'S girlfriend that he
	was gay.
1992 - 1999	VINCENT "VINNY OCEAN" PALERMO



The chart on the next page is seen here as the 3rd from the right.

THE GAETANO LUCCHESE FAMILY

IA. CURRENTLY IN JAIL FOR MARCOTICS

IC. PREVIOUS CONVICTION FOR MARCOTICS

3. SIPYLOCKING

IDENTIFIED BY JOSEPH WALACHI

4. LABOR RACKETEERING

8. CRIMINALLY RECEIVING 9. ALCOHOL TAX VIOLATIONS

Z. COUNTERFEITING

The state of the s

sometiments.

HORSELE WITH PRESCRIPTION OF

FRANK ARRA

FRANKIE CARBO"

- Acres Ross

